

My CHI ★
My Future ★

Lori E. Lightfoot ★ Mayor of Chicago

YOUTH IMPACT

**CONNECTING
CHICAGO YOUTH
TO OPPORTUNITY**

SEP 2020 • AUG 2021



ABOUT MY CHI. MY FUTURE.

My CHI. My Future. Vision Statement

Every young person in Chicago connects to a variety of **rich, engaging, safe and youth-centered** out-of-school experiences that **empower** them to discover and cultivate their **talents, passions, skills and identities**; develop as **physically, mentally and emotionally healthy** members of society; **build relationships** and networks with peers and mentors; and explore multiple pathways to **college, careers, trades, entrepreneurship, and life-long learning**.

My CHI. My Future. is in the business of connections.



CONNECTIONS WITH COMMUNITY

Young people deserve rich and accessible programming in their neighborhoods. Through community collaborations, My CHI. My Future. strengthens local networks of caring adults working together to engage and support young people.



CONNECTIONS TO OPPORTUNITY

With over 20,000 opportunities available at www.mychimymyfuture.org, Chicago's youth can find places to pursue their passions and chart their futures.



CONNECTIONS ACROSS THE CITY

My CHI. My Future. breaks down silos that have stunted the City government's ability to holistically serve Chicago's youth. Through My CHI. My Future., every department and agency is connected in richer and deeper ways with the mission of supporting "our kids."

LETTER FROM MAYOR LORI E. LIGHTFOOT AND FIRST LADY AMY ESHLEMAN

My CHI. My Future. is the connective tissue that brings together government, community organizations, academia and philanthropy in service of Chicago's youth. Now, more than ever, our young people need to be uplifted through access to meaningful experiences, mentors and opportunities to do what they love. This last year has been especially hard for our young people, whose very development centers around enriching, in-person opportunities to connect, work, learn and play with others. The pandemic gave us the opportunity to reach young people in new and innovative ways. The shift to remote programming, for example, pushed us to collaborate with our partners across the City to create hundreds of virtual workouts, tutorials, concerts and more. Instead of canceling programs and initiatives, we embraced digital access and offered virtual options so youth across each of our 77 neighborhoods could connect with one another, mentors, teachers, and each other.

When it was safe to be back together in person, My CHI. My Future. jumped in to reengage and reconnect with our youth, especially around job skills, mental health and wellness. We are proud that our city departments and partners employed 20,000 youth in 2021. New this summer, the My CHI. My Future. Summer Kickback Series provided resources and funding to 15 neighborhoods to hire local youth to plan engaging activities for their peers. The initiative resulted in 230 jobs and 115 community events attended by nearly 10,000 residents—making youth development, empowerment and fun a community-wide effort.

We know that long-lasting success comes from institutional change. That's why we are also breaking down silos to collaborate across City departments and agencies to give our young people the best shot at future prosperity. My CHI. My Future. collaborates with youth-serving city departments to create a nurturing opportunity ecosystem for young people at the neighborhood and city level. By working together, we continue to build a "one-stop-shop" for thousands of City-run out-of-school opportunities on www.mychimymfuture.org.

My CHI. My Future. remains an extraordinary testament to the power of connections. Thank you to our City departments, community partners and sponsors who have raised their hand to co-create Chicago's opportunity ecosystem. You are a part of this important mission by making sure every young person in every neighborhood here in Chicago can thrive.



In partnership,

MAYOR LORI E. LIGHTFOOT
FIRST LADY AMY ESHLEMAN

BY THE #s

My CHI. My Future. Impact Snapshot



200,000

EXPERIENCES TO WORK,
LEARN AND EXPLORE



20,000+

JOBS FOR ONE SUMMER
CHICAGO TEENS



224

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTORS TO
WWW.MYCHIMYFUTURE.ORG



45,000

UNIQUE VISITORS TO
WWW.MYCHIMYFUTURE.ORG



473,383

YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATED
IN CAMPS, PROGRAMS AND OUT
OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.



\$17M +

IN SALARIES AND STIPENDS
TO CHICAGO YOUTH

IN 2020-2021, YOUTH WERE PROVIDED ACCESS TO PROGRAMS FROM OVER 200 ORGANIZATIONS ON MYCHIMYFUTURE.ORG

CITY DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL
CHICAGO COOK WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP
CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY
CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT
CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY
CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO
CIVILIAN OFFICE OF POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPECIAL EVENTS
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND SUPPORT SERVICES
MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

826CHI
A KNOCK AT MIDNIGHT
ABIDING IN CHRIST P&W MINISTRIES
ADLER PLANETARIUM
ADVENTURE STAGE CHICAGO
AFTER SCHOOL MATTERS
AGAPE WERKS, INC | LEVELUP MAKERSPACE
ALBANY PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
ALLISON'S INFANT & TODDLER CENTER
ALTERNATIVES, INC.
ANTIDOTE INC.
ANTONIA RUPPERT FINE ART
ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY
BASTA! (ENOUGH!) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM
BEAT THE STREETS CHICAGO
BETHEL NEW LIFE
BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF METRO CHICAGO
BITS&SPACE
BODDLE LEARNING
BOXING OUT NEGATIVITY
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CHICAGO
BRAINBOX LEARNING ACADEMY
BREAKTHROUGH
BUILD INC.
BUILDING BLOCKS ACADEMY
BURST INTO BOOKS
BY THE HAND
CAROLE ROBERTSON CENTER FOR LEARNING
CENTERS FOR NEW HORIZONS
CHALKBEAT
CHESS WIZARDS
CHI-RISE
CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE BIENNIAL
CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER
CHICAGO CENTER FOR ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY (CHICAT)
CHICAGO CHILDREN'S CHOIR
CHICAGO CHILDREN'S THEATRE
CHICAGO CITY SOCCER CLUB
CHICAGO COLLEGIATE
CHICAGO COUNCIL ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
CHICAGO CULTURAL PERFORMING ARTS & MEDIA ALLIANCE (CCPAMA)
CHICAGO EARLY LEARNING
CHICAGO FIRE FC
CHICAGO GAMING UNITED
CHICAGO HUMAN RHYTHM PROJECT
CHICAGO LEARNING EXCHANGE (CLX)
CHICAGO PRE-COLLEGE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PROGRAM (CHIS&E)
CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER
CHICAGO SOCCER FOUNDATION
CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU)
CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
CHICAGO URBAN ART RETREAT CENTER & WOMEN'S RESIDENCE
CHICAGO WEST COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER
CHICAGO YOUTH CENTERS
CHICAGO YOUTH SERVICE CORPS (CYSC)
CHICAGO YOUTH SHAKESPEARE
CHICKTECH

CITY OF REFUGE - CHICAGO
CODE CREATE
COLLABORATION
COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO
COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (CAPS)
COMMUNITY MAKERY
COMP-U-DOPT
CONCORDIA PLACE
DEPAUL UNIVERSITY
DIGITAL ADVENTURES
DIGITAL YOUTH NETWORK
DIVINE PURPOSE YOUTH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
DRAGONFLY GALLERY & CREATIVE SPACES
EAST-WEST UNIVERSITY
ECONOMIC AWARENESS COUNCIL
EYES ON THE FUTURE
FAMILY MATTERS CHICAGO
FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY
FOUS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT TRUST
FREE SPIRIT MEDIA
FUTURE FOUNDERS
GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY
GARY COMER YOUTH CENTER
GATEWAY TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS
GENIUS LAB, INC.
GIRL SCOUTS OF GREATER CHICAGO AND NORTHWEST INDIANA
GIRLS IN THE GAME
GIRLS INC. OF CHICAGO
GOODMAN THEATRE
GREATER CHICAGO FOOD DEPOSITORY
GREENCORPS CHICAGO
GUITARS OVER GUNS GOES LIVE!
HABILITATIVE SYSTEMS, INC.
HANDS AROUND THE HUNDREDS
HOLY CROSS IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
HOLY GOAT PERCUSSION
HOMEWOOD SCIENCE CENTER
HOPE EXCEL
HYDE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB
ILLINOIS ACTION FOR CHILDREN
ILLINOIS INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN
ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
IT TAKES A VILLAGE
JOHN G. SHEDD AQUARIUM
LIFE DIRECTIONS
LINCOLN PARK ZOO | EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
LITTLE INSPIRATIONS
LOST BOYZ INC.
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY
MAPSCORPS
MATH CIRCLES OF CHICAGO
METROPOLITAN FAMILY SERVICES
MICHELE CLARK HIGH SCHOOL - PARENT UNIVERSITY
MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART
MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY
NAMI CHICAGO
NATIONAL A. PHILIP RANDOLPH PULLMAN PORTER MUSEUM
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MEXICAN ART
NEW ECLIPSE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE (NECA)
NFP
NORTH PARK VILLAGE NATURE CENTER
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
ONCE UPON OUR TIME CAPSULE
ONE IN TECH
ONEGOAL
OPEN BOOKS LTD
OPPORTUNITY EDUCATION
PBS KIDS
PEACE AND EDUCATION COALITION HIGH SCHOOL
PEACEPLAYERS
PEGGY NOTEBAERT NATURE MUSEUM
PHALANX FAMILY SERVICES
PLAYWORKS

PRISMATIC
PROJECT EXPLORATION
PROJECT INCREASE
PROJECT SYNCERE
PUMPING STATION: ONE
QUBIT BY QUBIT
R CITY (RIVER CITY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER)
REACH OUT
REFUGEE EDUCATION & ADVENTURE CHALLENGE (REACH)
REFUGEEONE
SAINT XAVIER UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO
SCHOOL2LIFE
SCIENCE OLYMPIAD
SGA YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES
SITTERCITY
SOCIAL WORKS
SOUTH SIDE HELP CENTER
SOUTHWEST ORGANIZING PROJECT (SWOP)
STEPPENWOLF THEATRE COMPANY FOR YOUNG ADULTS
STUDENT-LED ED
STUDS TERKEL RADIO ARCHIVE
TEAMWORK ENGLEWOOD
TECHGIRLZ
TERRA FIRM
TERRITORY NFP
THE 5:30 SCHOLARS
THE ALLIANCE 98 (TA98)
THE ANTI-CRUELTY SOCIETY
THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO
THE BASE CHICAGO
THE CHICAGO CHESS FOUNDATION
THE FIELD MUSEUM
THE GRAY MATTER EXPERIENCE
THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PUERTO RICAN ARTS AND CULTURE
THE PAIGE FRASER FOUNDATION
THE ROCK ENTERPRISES & DEVELOPMENT CORP. (T.R.E.A.D.)
THE SIMPLE GOOD
THE STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
THE VIOLA PROJECT
THIRD COAST PERCUSSION
THRIVE CHICAGO
TIDAL LAB
TILTON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL
TREASURE HUNT LEARNING ACADEMY
TRUE BELIEVERS COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
TRUE STAR FOUNDATION | TRUE STAR MEDIA
U.N.I.O.N. IMPACT CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO
UIC CHANCE PROGRAM
UNION LEAGUE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
UNITED EDUCATIONAL CULTURAL ACADEMY
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO (UCHICAGO)
UIC CENTER FOR LITERACY
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION
URBAN INITIATIVES
WE ALL CODE
WESTSIDE HEALTH AUTHORITY
WILDEBRI YOUTH ACADEMIC CENTER
WTTW KIDS
XS TENNIS
YMCA OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO
YOUTH ADVOCATE PROGRAMS
YOUTH MENTORING AND ACADEMIC SUPPORTS
YOUTH OUTREACH SERVICES
YOUTHQUAKE
YWCA OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO

| PARTNERS

My CHI. My Future. would not exist without the generous support of financial and academic partners.

Northwestern

 DEPAUL UNIVERSITY



Blommer
— CHOCOLATE COMPANY —



ONECHICAGOFUND

LSC
CHICAGO

amazon

POLK BROS
FOUNDATION



 PNC BANK

 TARGET®

CHICAGO
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

MY CHI. MY FUTURE. IN THE COMMUNITY

PARTNERSHIP

ASSET MAPPING

My CHI. My Future. enlisted MAPSCorps, an organization that trains and employs youth, to produce high-quality data about community assets in each My CHI. My Future. focus community. These data will help the City and our anchor organizations create and implement robust strategies to better serve each community. 152 young people were hired through One Summer Chicago to survey the current landscape for each neighborhood to better serve the area.



Young people in all 77 neighborhoods should have access to opportunity in safe and authentic spaces.

Community work is the heart and soul of My CHI. My Future. and where the deepest impact can happen. My CHI. My Future. takes a grassroots approach and partners with those who know their community best—its residents and leaders—to design their own strategies to best reach youth. My CHI. My Future. community leaders in Austin, Back of the Yards, Garfield Park and Roseland are joining together in new and innovative ways, building long-lasting connections to increase opportunities for young people to flourish.



See what's happening
in your community!

AUSTIN

COMMUNITY PAGES

Community pages have arrived at www.mychimymfuture.org. Youth and families have easy access to find opportunities in their community. The City worked with community organizations and residents to create graphics that highlight the neighborhoods.

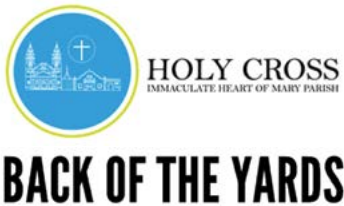
WHAT COMMUNITY ANCHORS ARE SAYING

My CHI. My Future. funded organizations in each focus community to host monthly gatherings with youth-service providers along with the Mayor's Office, City departments, LISC and DePaul University.



“ My CHI. My Future. has strengthened the collaboration between community stakeholders in Austin. In doing so, we have been able to effectively strategize around engaging youth in positive spaces. Through our unified efforts, we are confident this initiative will provide hope and opportunities for young people in our community. ”

- **Natasha Smith-Walker**, *Executive Director, Project Exploration*



“ My CHI. My Future. continues to foster collaboration and unity in Back of The Yards. We are grateful to My CHI. My Future. for it has strengthened our organization's capacity to convene community stakeholders to work in collaboration to support youth in our community. ”

- **Gabriel Lara**, *Director of Training for the Coalition of Spiritual and Public Leadership, Holy Cross Casa Romero*



“ My CHI. My Future. brings hope to the West Garfield Park community. Hope of a better community, hope of a better and more inclusive city and hope of the opportunities and knowledge that this nation will provide our young people. This hope will cultivate incredible people who will make impactful contributions in our communities, in our cities and in our nation. ”

- **Eric Davis**, *Executive Director, The Base*



“ Phalanx Family Services is proud to be a part of the MCMF Roseland network, as it aims to bridge the information gap for youth and foster collaborations among network partners. ”

- **Pauline Sylvain**, *Roseland Reconnection Hub Director, Phalanx Family Services*

OUT OF SCHOOL TIME[LINE]

My CHI. My Future. doesn't take breaks.

During out-of-school time, My CHI. My Future. keeps kids safe, learning and having fun. Throughout 2020 and 2021, My CHI. My Future. partners created thousands of ways for Chicago youth to own their futures and turn passion into possibility.

Halloween

In 2020, My CHI. My Future. launched a new series of COVID-safe neighborhood Halloween-themed activities. "Halloweek" (October 25 – October 31) included the drive-thru "Upside Down Parade" in Washington Park, 200 searchable activities on www.chicagohalloween.org, 15 On The Block community events, and in 2021, we'll see the exciting return of the Arts in the Dark Parade.



Make 2021 Yours

During the 2020/2021 winter break, hundreds of out-of-school programs and 50 live masterclasses were featured on mychimymyfuture.org. City departments worked together to create 6,000 kits with hands-on activities that were distributed through the Chicago Public Library and Chicago Park District to students all over Chicago.



OUT OF SCHOOL TIME[LINE]

My CHI. My Future. Presents...

SPRING FORWARD 
FUN. SERVICE. OPPORTUNITY.

Spring Forward

“Spring Forward” was designed to engage youth during Chicago Public Schools’ 2021 Spring Break (March 27 - April 3). Spring Forward included daily in-person COVID-19 safe events and virtual panels about transitioning into high school and college led by the Mayor’s Youth Commission.

Youth Mental Health Conference

In June 2021, My CHI. My Future. hosted the first annual “Holding Healing Spaces For Youth” virtual conference. The two-day conference focused on youth mental health, trauma-informed care and racial healing for youth-serving providers. All sessions were recorded and can be found at partners.mychimyfuture.org/webinars.

Rediscover Summer

The My CHI. My Future. community launched “Rediscover Summer” in June 2021 to encourage and support Chicago’s youth in reconnection with their passions during the summer. Rediscover Summer 2021 saw thousands of children and young adults making, playing, learning and having fun.



OUT OF SCHOOL TIME[LINE]

Summer Kickback Series



From July 9 through August 27, the 2021 Summer Kickback Series created free Friday night hangouts for families, teens and young adults in 15 communities across Chicago through a partnership with My CHI. My Future., the Chicago Park District, the Chicago Parks Foundation, Amazon and 15 community-based organizations. Communities received funding to hire 12 young people each to plan and host the weekly events on Friday evenings.

Throughout the Summer, each community participated in weekly youth-organized events including movie nights, sports tournaments, painting events, water balloon tosses, cookouts, back to school events and more.

230

youth hired

15

communities

115

events

\$600k

in youth salaries

>9,500

total participants

One City, One Mission

Our city is much greater than the sum of its agencies, departments and staff when working together towards a higher purpose. Every first Friday of the month, youth-serving City department representatives come together with one goal – to improve equity and strengthen Chicago’s opportunity ecosystem for our young people. By working together, My CHI. My Future. is identifying opportunities, breaking down silos, plotting warm handoffs of youth from opportunity to opportunity and sharing data. Through close collaboration our City departments are stepping up to work with community in new and innovative ways.



PARTNERSHIP PROFILES

ONE SUMMER CHICAGO

WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND SUPPORT SERVICES

One Summer Chicago is the largest youth employment program in the nation. The goals of One Summer Chicago are to maximize the availability of summer jobs programming for Chicago’s young people and keep them on a learning pathway to college, career and life success. In its 11th summer, One Summer Chicago provided over 20,000 youth ages 14 to 24 with meaningful summer employment and learning opportunities through 11 City partners and 47 delegate agency sites.

CHICAGO YOUTH SERVICE CORPS

WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The signature **Chicago Youth Service Corps (CYSC)** program has grown in size and impact in its second year. This summer, over 2,000 CYSC members working across 35 city agencies and partner organizations, designed and implemented a diverse range of service projects. These projects included Corps members making new intergenerational friendships with local seniors, performing research and developing public policy recommendations and completing community beautification projects.

Chicago Youth Service Corps Capstone Projects



The Chicago Lighthouse - Photography for All program teaches photography to blind and visually impaired youth. Giselle, one of the youth participants this year, took photos exploring the City and “moving Chicago with her eyes.” The group traveled to the Garfield Park Conservatory, Chinatown, the Bean and Lincoln Park Zoo to take photos on their iPads and show other Chicagoans their lens of the City.

Youth employed by the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities created a course to educate youth with disabilities about the importance of the vaccine. The awareness course, created in both English and Spanish, includes common misconceptions about COVID-19 and the vaccine, personal stories from youth who have gotten the vaccine and how to approach conversations with people who are hesitant to get the vaccine.



The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) employed 200 youth this summer to create and distribute healthy travel kits to residents. These kits included masks and hand sanitizers to promote safe and healthy travel habits. Youth distributed these kits in their communities and in high traffic train and bus stations across the City - making it to every color train line!

“This project...is teaching ourselves how to be better leaders not only in our communities, but also in our homes as well.”

Amaya, CTA

PARTNERSHIP PROFILES (Continued)

CAREERS IN AVIATION WITH THE CITY COLLEGES

Careers in Aviation is a new program that launched this summer to help youth learn about a wide variety of careers available in aviation, including human resources, customer service, engineering and security. The six-week experience offered a mix of classes at Daley College and days in the field at Midway and O'Hare International Airports. The pilot program enrolled eight youth and was offered as part of "One Summer Chicago" and was developed by partners including: 18th Ward Alderman Derrick Curtis, Richard J. Daley College, the Chicago Department of Aviation, Atlantic Aviation, One Summer Chicago/Department of Children and Family Services (DFSS), Bogan High School, the Alternative School Network, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council and Career Launch.

Of the students who had graduated from high school, all reported they plan to enroll at City Colleges of Chicago in the fall of 2021. Two of the eight students received job offers from the City Dept. of Aviation or Atlantic Aviation following completion of the program.

LIBRARY COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS WITH THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Chicago Public Library recruited five youth aged 16-20 for stipended positions to serve as community organizers from June to August 2021, as part of a planning initiative for the 2021 Chicago Architectural Biennial (CAB), "The Available City." Working with librarians in North Lawndale and Little Village, the community organizers learned about the CAB initiative and collaborated to develop an available lot next to Douglass Branch Library. The developed lot will be a program site during the CAB fall program focusing on birdhouses, mural-making and collaboration to improve community spaces.



GREENCORPS CHICAGO YOUTH WITH THE CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Greencorps Chicago Youth (GCY) is the Chicago Department of Transportation's summer employment program that exposes youth, ages 15-19, to careers and service projects in sustainability fields in bicycling, horticulture, ecological restoration and tree care. GCY includes group visits to local parks, forest preserves, community gardens and other public spaces to introduce participants to the immense resources Chicago has to offer.

The participants also engage in lessons that teach the value of the environment, alternative transportation, community and how they, individually, can make a positive impact. In 2021, GCY welcomed 127 youth from six high schools in Garfield Park, Hyde Park, Washington Park and Grand Crossing.



PARTNERSHIP PROFILES (Continued)

DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING FOR GIRLS WITH THE CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY

In collaboration with Chicago Housing Authority and Depaul University and DePaul University, Documentary Filmmaking for Girls invited participants, girls ages 15 to 20, to create a documentary film to address a social topic. Participants acquired pre-production skills like developing a story pitch, producing a film schedule, production skills, operating film, lighting and sound equipment and post-production skills like film editing. The program graduation ceremony took place at AMC River East theater, where four documentaries created by the participants were screened for the first time in a movie theater.

Documentary Filmmaking for girls demonstrated how young women leaders can employ media in positive ways to understand the social challenges they face and advocate for a better tomorrow.



EVERYONE CAN CODE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Augmented Reality (AR) is one of the new additions to Department of Family and Support Services Technology Career Pathways. The program introduced a new coding language to the youth and allowed them to incorporate their creative/artistic skills while learning about Augmented Reality. One hundred and ninety young people joined this opportunity to express themselves through the language of the future—coding.



Mayor's Youth Commission

The Mayor's Youth Commission was created in 2019 to represent the **diversity of youth perspectives** and experiences, promote a **collective youth voice** and **bridge the gap** between the City and its youth. The second cohort of the MYC comprised 30 youth ages 14-19 from all over the city.

Throughout their term, Youth Commissioners engage other youth, their communities and government leaders in conversations and action around critical issues affecting young people in Chicago.

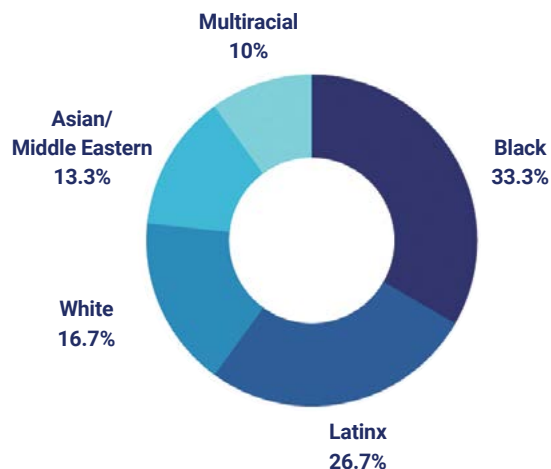
Examples include:

- Discussing issues of public safety and policing with the Mayor and Superintendent Brown
- Conducting youth focus groups around the rise of carjackings this winter
- Hosting a conversation with New York Times columnist and psychologist, Lisa Damour, about youth mental health during and post-pandemic
- Creating academic resource guides for elementary, middle school and high school students.

On Saturday, August 14, 2021 the Mayor's Youth Commission hosted its second youth summit. The theme of this year's summit was Reflect, Reimagine and Restore. The summit, held at the Chicago Cultural Center featured a panel on youth mental health in the context of returning to school, a keynote address by Chicago Department of Public Health Commissioner Dr. Allison Arwady, breakout conversations around critical policy issues and entertainment by Bianca Shaw and Supa Bwe. Over 100 youth registered for this in-person event. Watch the youth summit at www.tinyurl.com/2021CHlyouthcommissionsummit



AT A GLANCE



Neighborhood Representation

Archer Heights	Lakeview
Auburn Gresham	Lincoln Park
Austin	Little Village
Avondale	Logan Square
Back of the Yards	North Lawndale
Beverly	Park Manor
Brainerd	Ravenswood
Bridgeport	River North
Burnside	Roseland
Garfield Park	Sauganash
Hermosa	West Elsdon
Hyde Park	West Ridge
Jefferson Park	



PARTNERSHIP PROFILES (Continued)

TRACE

WITH THE CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

Teens Reimagining Art, Community & Environment (TRACE) is a teen leadership and curatorial job training program with the Chicago Park District. Using the arts to engage, inspire and persist, TRACERs advocate for a better world. Teens, ages 14-19, explored the connections between nature, design and community engagement by constructing a series of chairs using reclaimed wood from the Park District's Nature Department and participated in photography projects during virtual studio time.



QUEERING THE PARKS

WITH THE CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

Chicago Park District's Queering the Parks (QTP) creates welcoming and liberatory public space by and for LGBTQIA+ youth. The QTP Youth Committee partnered with Chicago Public Library as well as over 30 community-based organizations to co-create a Queer Radical Fair on August 12, at Ping Tom Memorial Park. The Queer Radical Fair featured DJs, drag performers, a fashion show, art-making stations, COVID-19 vaccinations, HIV/STI testing, health and wellness resources and arts and cultural items created by and for LGBTQIA+ youth. The Queer Radical Fair engaged over 1,000 LGBTQIA+ youth across Chicago neighborhoods.



ARTSEED

WITH THE CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

ArtSeed engages youth ages 3-15 across public parks and community gardens through art-making, storytelling and nature play. Since the beginning of the pandemic, ArtSeed has built relationships with community gardeners to participate in city-wide mutual aid efforts with a focus on the South and West Sides of Chicago.

Through these relationships, ArtSeed has fostered a safe place for artists and youth participants to practice community care, creative healing and reciprocity with the natural world. This program served 750 youth across 16 neighborhoods in the city of Chicago.



PARTNERSHIP PROFILES (Continued)

SHINE ON CHICAGO!

WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF
CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

“Shine On, Chicago! 2021 Teen Photo Ambassadors” program was a six-week paid internship for teens ages 14 - 18 in partnership with Shine On, Chicago!, One Summer Chicago, the Chicago Public Library’s YOUmedia and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. During the internship, teen “Photo Ambassadors” learned the basics of Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) photography while traveling to explore some of Chicago’s neighborhoods and museums to capture the beauty around them. Cameras and MacBook Pro computers were provided for participants during the program. This program served 15 youth across five neighborhoods in the city of Chicago.



PLAYSTREETS

WITH THE CHICAGO DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC HEALTH

“PlayStreets” helps local community-based organizations in focused neighborhoods to create days of structured play, physical activity, nutritional snacks and educational opportunities. Since 2017, Playstreets has served 25k residents annually. In 2021, PlayStreets created a hybrid program by requiring community-based organizations to promote live and virtual activations in order to support the communities in-person activities.

ONCE UPON A TIME CAPSULE PROJECT

WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF
FAMILY AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Throughout summer 2021, “Once Upon Our Time Capsule” supported thousands of children from across Chicago to tell their life stories during the COVID-19 pandemic. These individual stories will be brought together into a giant Chicago Time Capsule that will tell the collective story of Chicago’s children during this time. Five enrichment delegate agencies partnered with Once Upon Our Time Capsule to provide over 300 youth with an opportunity to capture their stories. Once Upon a Time Capsule will digitize all of the submissions to ensure there is lasting photographic documentation of these stories.



WHAT'S NEXT

FOR MY CHI. MY FUTURE.

My CHI. My Future. has big plans for what comes next.

In the next twelve months, My CHI. My Future. will double down on its commitment to strengthening neighborhood networks of youth-facing organizations and leaders, continue digital expansion through a modern app for teens and parents and work across silos to create more jobs, programming and connections within Chicago's opportunity ecosystem.



South Shore joins the My CHI. My Future. family.

This Fall, members of the South Shore community will begin regular convenings with the My CHI. My Future. team to leverage city government resources in the community and create opportunity pathways for local youth. Next year, the goal is for My CHI. My Future. to be in 15 communities across Chicago.



The My CHI. My Future. team is **launching a mobile app** that gives users a custom experience on their phones to find programs, events and resources near them.

CHICAGO YOUTH EMPLOYMENT WORKING GROUP

My CHI. My Future. has convened a cross-departmental working group focused on enhancing employment opportunities for Chicago's youth. The working group has identified three key priority areas to work on for the next year: **increasing access for youth with complex needs, strengthening handoffs after summer employment and addressing competing priorities for young people.**





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